

ABSTRACT

Disclosed is a method for normalizing metric values in a decoder which uses a plurality of metric values of a next state in a state transition period having a present state and the next state, each metric value having a survival path metric value having a value equal to or higher than a competition path metric value. The method comprises detecting the survival path metric values out of the metric values; detecting a minimum survival path metric value out of the detected survival path metric values; determining whether the detected minimum survival path metric value exceeds a threshold value; and subtracting, when the minimum survival path metric value exceeds the threshold value, a given normalization value from the metric values, to output normalized metric values. Also disclosed is another method for normalizing metric values in a decoder which uses a plurality of metric values of a next state in a state transition period having a present state and the next state, each metric value having a survival path metric value having a value equal to or higher than a competition path metric value. The method comprises detecting the competition path metric values out of the metric values; detecting a minimum competition path metric value out of the detected competition path metric values; determining whether the detected minimum competition path metric value is greater than a threshold value; and subtracting, when the minimum competition path metric value is greater than the threshold value, a given normalization value to output normalized metric values.